

ABSTRACT

A character input method for a portable device including a display screen and the portable device are provided. The character input method for a portable device includes a step of locating a pointer at a predetermined pointer start area on the display screen; a step of sensing the movement of an object which moves being in contact with an optical interface unit of the portable device; a step of inputting a character by moving the pointer from the pointer start area according to the sensed movement; and a step of returning the pointer to the pointer start area according to the input of the character. According to the present invention, an optical interface unit is installed in a portable device supporting character input and a character is input by moving a pointer via sensing the movement of an object in contact with the optical interface unit, thereby providing a character input method for a portable device and the portable device, which embody an optimized character input type maximizing convenience of users.